

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 2 is canceled. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. All claim language was previously recited and thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending with claims 3-7 and 9 being withdrawn from consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1, but was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge this indication of allowability, and have rewritten independent claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 2, including all of the limitations of any intervening claims (there were none).

An indication of allowance of independent claim 1 and the corresponding dependent claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakahira (U.S. Patent No. 6,879,783) in view of Fatehi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,612; "Fatehi"). These rejections are moot in view of the amendments to the claims presented herewith. As indicated above, applicants have rewritten independent claim 1 to include the limitations of previously allowable dependent claim 2.


6

LUC-707 / Q104303

Previously withdrawn claims 3-7 and 9 are dependent on independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of these claims in accordance with MPEP 821.04.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney or agent.

Respectfully submitted,



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